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## PRESS RELEASE

# Clair Hall public engagement and consultation programme launched

**Mid Sussex District Council is launching a 12-week engagement programme. The local community are encouraged to participate and help shape the future of the Clair Hall site.**

Mid Sussex District Council has today launched a public engagement and consultation programme on the future of the Clair Hall site in Haywards Heath.

Starting with 12 weeks of varied engagement activities over the course of the summer, the council will seek and listen to the views of the local community about what the Clair Hall site means to them and how they would like it to support and provide for the town in the future.

The engagement will begin with a series of both digital and physical events in July and over the course of the summer the Council will support an evolving and varied consultation programme to give the local community in Haywards Heath a wide range of opportunities to have its say on the future of the site.

It is vitally important that the broadest cross-section of the local community has the opportunity to share their views. The engagement programme will include drop-in sessions, one-to-one meetings, webinars, and a whole host of measures to give everyone in the local community the opportunity to participate.

The aim is to establish how the Council can breathe new life into this gateway site and make sure that it is able to meet the demands and expectations of the 21st Century once it is no longer required as a vaccination centre.

The Council is seeking feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders, including community groups, the town council, and the wider local community. Through this engagement and consultation programme, the Council wishes to fully understand local community use and future demand for services and activities in the town and how that could be accommodated.

At this stage, there has not been any decision made on the future, with the driving ambition of the engagement process to offer the local community the opportunity to inform and shape options and recommendations for this important site.

Councillor Norman Webster, Cabinet Member for Community said, "I am delighted to see the commencement of this public engagement and consultation programme on the important issue of the future of the Clair Hall site. Over the coming months, through clear and transparent dialogue with a wide range of voices in Haywards Heath, and beyond, this Council wants to identify how the Clair Hall site can continue to contribute to the vibrancy of the local community, in a manner that is both sustainable and fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I look forward to listening to the views of our local communities and working with them to shape the future of this site".

Details of and ongoing updates on the engagement and consultation programme can be found at <https://engage.midsussex.gov.uk/clair-hall>

## **ENDS**

*For media enquires contact the project team on :*

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### **Editor Notes:**

Clair Hall was closed to the public on 19th March 2020 in line with COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, opening again at the end of 2020 as a Vaccination Centre. In January 2021, the Council committed to undertake public engagement and consultation on the future of the Clair Hall site.